

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 038080

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038080

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TECH, JA

SUBJECT: VOA OKINAWA

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT AND USIA ARE CONCERNED THAT ACTION BY INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR LATER THIS YEAR COULD SERVE TO NULLIFY PROVISIONS OF OKINAWA REVERSION AGREEMENT INTENDED TO PROTECT FREQUENCY RESERVED FOR USE BY VOA ON OKINAWA OR ELSEWHERE SHOULD THE STATION BE RELOCATED. WE HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SEEK GOJ COOPERATION IN RETAINING PRESENT FREQUENCY FOR VOA USE. END SUMMARY.

2. PARA 3 OF JAPANESE NOTE REFERRING TO ARTICLE VIII OF OKINAWA REVERSION AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR PROTECTION OF MEDIUM WAVE FREQUENCY 1178 KHZ, USED BY VOA ON OKINAWA SINCE 1953 AND REGISTERED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FREQUENCY REGISTRATION BOARD IN THE NAME OF THE USG. WE ASSUME THAT THE REVERSION AGREEMENT PERMITS CONTINUED OPERATION ON THAT FREQUENCY AS LONG AS STATION REMAINS ON OKINAWA.

3. HOWEVER, IN MAY 1973, ITU ANNOUNCED CONVENING OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 038080

INTERNATIONAL RADIO CONFERENCE TO REASSIGN FREQUENCIES

IN LONG AND MEDIUM WAVE BROADCAST BANDS IN ITU REGIONS 1 AND 3. ALL ITU MEMBERS WILL PARTICIPATE, EXCEPT THOSE IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE (REGION 2), WHERE EXISTING FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENTS WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT. US DOES NOT RPT NOT

INTEND PARTICIPATE. CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN TWO SESSIONS: A THREE WEEK TECHNICAL SESSION IN GENEVA IN OCTOBER 1974, AND A FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENT SESSION ONE YEAR LATER. THIS WILL BE FIRST MEDIUM AND LONG WAVE BROADCAST CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER FAR EAST FREQUENCY ASSIGNMENTS SINCE REGION 3 CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IN 1949. IT WILL BE FIRST SUCH CONFERENCE IN WHICH JAPAN AND PRC WILL PARTICIPATE AS SOVEREIGN NATIONS (JAPAN'S INTERESTS WERE REPRESENTED BY USG IN 1949).

4. SINCE US NO LONGER HAS ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR OKINAWA, OUR REGISTRATION FOR 1178 KHZ ON OKINAWA COULD BE DELETED BY CONFERENCE ACTION AND REASSIGNED TO ANOTHER COUNTRY UNLESS GOJ, ON ITS OWN BEHALF, SUBMITS REQUIREMENTS FOR 1178 KHZ FOR USE ON OKINAWA.

5. CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN US AND GOJ RE FUTURE OF VOA OKINAWA EXPECTED TO BEGIN SHORTLY AFTER MAY 15, 1974, WOULD BE TIMELY AND APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF 1178 KHZ FREQUENCY PROBLEM. WE ARE REASONABLY SATISFIED THAT ARTICLE VIII OF REVERSION AGREEMENT ASSURES CONTINUED VOA USE OF PRESENT FREQUENCY FOR DURATION OF STATION'S EXISTENCE ON OKINAWA, BARRING FAILURE OF GOJ TO TAKE MINIMAL ACTION ON ITS OWN BEHALF AT ITU CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, AT APPROPRIATE POINT DURING CONSULTATIONS EMBASSY SHOULD 1) REVIEW FREQUENCY PROBLEM, 2) REMIND GOJ THAT WE EXPECT IT TO ACT IN ITU CONFERENCE TO ENSURE THAT 1178 KHZ REMAINS AVAILABLE FOR CONTINUED VOA USE ON OKINAWA AS PROVIDED BY REVERSION AGREEMENT, AND 3) INFORM GOJ OF USG DESIRE FOR SPECIFIC AGREEMENT THAT IF STATION IS RELOCATED, WE COULD RETAIN FREQUENCY FOR VOA USE ELSEWHERE ASSUMING OTHER COUNTRY CONCERNED CONCURS.

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